"…as the heaven is high above the earth, so great is His mercy!"

"The heaven for height, and the earth for depth, and the heart of kings is unsearchable." (Proverbs 25:3)

WHERE is the Friend that will *"make His soul an offering for sin?"* (Isaiah 53:10). … this is the highest flight that ever human love took, to lay down life for a friend; but Christ [has set a new standard for such a love], *"Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends"* (John 15:13). [You see], a far greater love than this had Christ,—that He laid down His life for enemies! Christ laid down a [holy righteous] life for them that [are evil]. And this is proposed to our consideration, as that which has out-done all the love in the world. *"Scarcely for a righteous man will one die"* (Romans 5:7). No, I think it is out of question that none will; for who would be so friendly to him that walks by the rules of strict justice; that will do no wrong, yet shows no mercy? Yet peradventure for a good man some would even dare to die. If there be an instance found in the world of any that has laid down his life for another, it must be for a good man,—one that is a public blessing to the age wherein he lives. Some one may throw away his private life, which is not very useful, for so generous a person, that is a common good to his country; but if such an instance be found, (which is but a "peradventure,") we have that which will shut it out of all consideration, and eclipse that which otherwise might have had some luster: *"God commendeth His love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us"* (Romans 5:8).

If the love of relations will not afford us a just measure for the love of Christ; let us see if there be any thing else in the whole scale of nature that may furnish us with a line commensurate to it.—And we can no sooner think of making the inquiry, but we propose to ourselves the height of heaven, the breadth of the earth. *"The heaven for height, and the earth for depth"* (Proverbs 25:3). But we must despair of finding any thing that may measure or circumscribe this love [in creation], since the apostle has assured us, that *"the riches of Christ"* are *"unsearchable,"* (Ephesians 3:8), such as we must expect *"no footsteps of"* in the whole creation (Psalm 77:19). The apostle might *preach* it, but could not fully *reach* it: for *"we know in part, and we prophesy in part"* (1 Corinthians 13:9).

The treasures of gold and silver which wise providence has hid so deep in the bowels of the earth, yet the vein may be pursued so far, till it is worn out; but this treasure of love in the heart of Christ is so deep, and is so rich, that we can neither find out nor exhaust the fulness of it. When God would give us some shadow of His love, He represents it by the height of the heavens; not that His love reaches no higher, but because there is nothing in created nature higher to represent it by. *"For as the heaven is high above the earth, so great is His mercy toward them that fear Him"* (Psalm 103:11). The love of God is only to be measured by itself, that is, by Himself; for *"God is love"* (1 John 4:8). No creature, no saint, no angel, can fathom the love of God's heart: *"I know the thoughts that I think toward you"* (Jeremiah 29:11).

And we must say the same of Christ's love, [that it is *unsearchable*]. There is one dimension more in the love of Christ than in the creation, that you [beloved, being found in Him] *"may be able to comprehend with all saints what is the breadth, and length, and depth, and height; and to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fulness of God. Now unto Him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us, unto Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen."* (Ephesians 3:18-21) — Copied / 1844

SOVEREIGN GRACE CHURCH

January 15th, 2023

We gather together
Sunday mornings at 10 a.m. and
Wednesday evenings at 7 p.m.

Nursery available for 4 years old and younger

"For as the heaven is high above the earth, so great is His mercy toward them that fear Him."

(Psalm 103:11)

JOSEPH D MURPHY, PASTOR

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SOVEREIGN GRACE CHURCH

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*"God shall bless us; and all the ends of the earth shall fear Him."— **God shall bless us;…*** [Beloved] The Holy Spirit blesses [us] with regenerating and renewing grace; with faith, comfort, joy and peace, by shedding abroad in the heart—the love of the Father and the Son; by applying precious promises; by testifying adoption; by making [us sinners] meet for heaven and happiness, and working up for the selfsame thing eternal glory;—***and all the ends of the earth shall fear Him***; the one God, Father, Son, and Spirit, the object of religious fear, internal and external; for this includes the exercise of that inward grace of filial [reverent] fear, and the performance of all divine worship, public and private; and which in the latter day will be found among Jews and Gentiles, in all the inhabitants of the earth, even to the ends of it, Hosea 3:5. — JG. [Beloved, the LORD shall save His people, His sheep, His lambs; all *His elect from the four winds, from the uttermost part of the earth to the uttermost part of heaven* (Mark 13:27)] AMEN!

Welcome

SINNERS are welcome at Sovereign Grace Church. We are a local body of the Lord Jesus Christ. As you spend time with us, you'll soon discover we're an imperfect assembly, with an imperfect pastor, yet by God's underserved grace, we preach, believe, and know the perfect gospel of our never failing Lord Jesus Christ. Reader, we call His name Jesus for He shall (not might, not maybe) rather He shall save His people from their sins. And beloved believing sinner you already know it! You are *complete in Him*, saved to the *uttermost* [Colossians 2:10, Hebrews 7:25].

Announcements

Happy Birthday!
Gary Borders, January 25th

Sovereign Grace Conference 2023 / Pastor Fred Evans
Friday, February 24th, 7:30 PM,
Saturday, February 25th, 10:30 AM,
Sunday, February 26th, 11:00 AM

Resources

BE sure to visit our website for gospel articles, live messages, and resources.

Grace Articles

His greatness is unsearchable

"Great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised; and His greatness is unsearchable." (Psalm 145:3)

BELOVED, can you search out the LORD'S greatness? Can you understand the infinite God that's *good, and ready to forgive; and plenteous in mercy*? Now, we know in part and we preach in part His greatness—the greatness of His power, the greatness of His love; but as our brother, the apostle Paul, says *"we know in part, and we prophesy in part"* (1 Corinthians 13:9). I mean, go ahead and consider any attribute, any characteristic of the LORD GOD ALMIGHTY…

…HIS GRACE

…HIS MERCY

…HIS LOVE

…HIS TRUTH

…HIS GREATNESS! Beloved, we only know it in part. Yes, it's true! *We know that the Son of God is come, and hath given us an understanding,* but beloved, never forget it, we only know in part—"*Him that is true, and we are in Him that is true, even in his Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God, and eternal life."*

Beloved, all of His greatness is *unsearchable*. And we worship Him who is great, because He is the great *true* and *living* God. Indeed, the greatness of our God is *past* finding out. Consider Romans 11 verse 33, *"O the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! how unsearchable are his judgments, and his ways past finding out!"*

And the apostle Paul, when he speaks about preaching the gospel and being put into the ministry, he writes, *"I was made a minister, according to the gift of the grace of God given unto me by the effectual working of His power. Unto me, who am less than the least of all saints, is this grace given, that I should preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ;"* (Ephesians 3:7-8) and O how freely do those riches flow to His people, sinners like the reader and writer alike, that beg, *God be merciful to me* the *sinner*. You see beloved, God is our great LORD, and because He is the great LORD, He's to be greatly, honored, worshiped, and praised because the greatness of the great and living God is *unsearchable*.

My friend, you can't understand all the infinite workings of His providence, His creation and His salvation—all we know is in part, and that by the *revelation* of God. But to know God fully, as He is in all His character and His doing, well it's *unsearchable;* His salvation is a great salvation! His love is a great love to us, to us whom He hath from the beginning *chosen* to *salvation* [2 Thessalonians 2:13] —*"But God, who is rich in mercy, for His great love wherewith He loved us, Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (**by grace ye are saved**;) And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus: That in the ages to come He might shew the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us through Christ Jesus. For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast"* AMEN! (Ephesians 2:4-9). — JDM